



GATEWAY



May 2019 - - Vol. LIV No. 5



Happy Birthday to Baby Buddha! The Sangha celebrated Hanamatsuri by decorating the Hanamido with beautiful flowers and pouring sweet tea over the Baby Buddha. Afterwards the children and parents participated in a Fun Day of games and delicious finger foods. (See page 4-5 for more photos.)

Listening to the Teachings

Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

As many of us know, 'listening' is always emphasized as our practice in Jodo Shinshu which does not dictate any particular method, such as meditation, as the practice to follow. However, as it seems like our ordinary conduct, some may wonder what listening actually means as a Buddhist practice.

Listening to the Teachings is called "*monpō* 聞法 (*mon* means 'listening' and *pō* means 'dharma')."
Monpō is not merely being there and listening aimlessly. It is not until we express what we have heard that the *Monpō* is fulfilled. In other words, when the Teachings genuinely relates to you, it is inevitably manifested through us.

The Teachings can move you in various ways. Attending study

classes and retreats are surely one way. It becomes your positive aspiration to learn more about Buddhism. Seeing people who work so hard at Obon Festivals in hot summer days, we feel that their enthusiasm is based on their appreciation of the teachings and the history of the temple which handed down the Teachings to them. Or just attending services every Sunday also proves that you have encountered the Teachings. And of course, many of us may have experienced that "Namu Amida Butsu" spontaneously come out of our mouth as our way of expression of gratitude. I feel that in addition to reciting "Namu Amida Butsu," the term "Nenbutsu" has also inclusively described all expression of those who have listened to the Teachings.

That being the case, Nenbutsu in Jodo Shinshu is not a prayer to gain something we do not have yet. Instead, it is the utterance of wonder when we awaken to what we already have received. It also can be said that it is our response to the calling which enables us to be aware that the Teachings undoubtedly reveal the reality of us and our life.

Considering a response in our daily communication, there are three conditions to be met for us to respond. The first condition is that we are able to listen to a voice of someone, second is that we know the person is calling you, not anyone else, and third is that we want to let the person know that we hear the calling. The process of listening is brought to

Please see LISTENING, con't on page 10



T H E G A T E W A Y

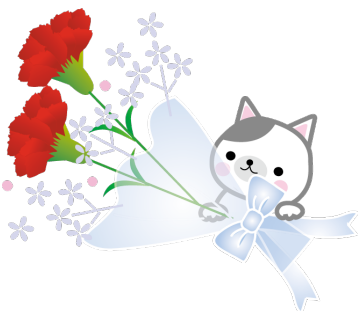
DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The Hanamatsuri service and Family Fun Day were held on Sunday, April 14. During the service, the Sangha offered flowers and poured sweet tea over the statue of the Baby Buddha. The Hanamido was dressed in colorful flowers to celebrate the birth of Prince Siddhartha. Miyoshi Sensei retold the story of the birth of the Buddha with visual aids that beautifully illustrated her Dharma talk.

After the service, Fun Day began. Many thanks to Mrs. Pat Sato for organizing Fun Day and putting together activities for the children. Thank you, too, to Mrs. Haruko Mayeda for being in charge of the games. The food was delicious, friends reconnected, and the youngsters had fun. It was a resounding success!

Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 12. We will be having a special Mother's Day Service and Dharma School will be presenting all Moms and Grandmothers a little gift. We hope to see you on the 12th!

Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi service will be held on May 19. There will be a lesson on the life of Shinran Shonin on this Sunday. Please let Rev. Miyoshi know if you have a new little one to be introduced to our temple. She will welcome your child with a special gift. Look for an email blast concerning Hatsumairi!



IT'S TEE TIME!

West Covina Buddhist Temple 23rd Golf Classic

The 23rd Golf Classic is just around the corner. This year it will be held on **Monday, June 3rd** at a new venue, **Hacienda Country Club**. Hacienda CC is an exclusive private golf club not open to the general public. However, WCBT was able to schedule this year's golf classic there and the committee is very excited.

To play golf at Hacienda you must either be a member or be invited by a member. Our tournament will give you or someone you know that plays golf the opportunity to play at this magnificent and well-manicured course. If you are a golfer and have not registered to play, do so immediately. Invite your golfing relatives or friends to come and join in on the fun and friendly competition.

You can support the Golf Classic and WCBT by becoming a tee sponsor. Sponsors are at various levels from Patrons to Platinum Plus. Please consider supporting the event by a tee sponsorship.

There are other ways to support this event. You can donate raffle prize(s) for our raffle at the awards dinner immediately following tournament play. Prizes do not have to be golf related. They can be gift cards to stores or restaurants, electronic items, wine to name a few. Golf balls are always a great raffle prize. You can also donate items for the player's goodie bags. Recommended are packaged snacks, energy bars and water. We are expecting 100 golfers but any amount is greatly appreciated. Please do not donate any snacks with chocolate, they will melt in the hot weather. Please bring items no later than June 2nd.

Golfers mark your calendar for Monday, June 3rd, at Hacienda CC! If you would like an entry form, contact Roy Takemura at (909) 973-2580.

Note: Part of Hacienda Blvd is closed and access to the course coming from the north you must take Fullerton Rd. Coming from the south the course is accessible from Hacienda Blvd.

Gassho,
West Covina Buddhist Temple Golf Committee





T H E G A T E W A Y

T E M P L E N E W S

The Study Class

The Study Class will meet on May 14 and 28 at 10:00 am.. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (213) 219-6140.

Mother's Day Service

A Mother's Day family service will be held on May 12, at 10:00 am. A special tribute to all mothers will be presented so please attend this special service.

Tanjo-e & Hatsumairi

The Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi (new baby) Service will be held on May 19 at 10:00 am. There will be a special ceremony to acknowledge new additions to our Sangha. Please contact Rev. Miyoshi if you or your family member has had a new baby in the last year.

Oldies Dance LXIII (63)

"Luv 'Ya To Be At Oldies LXIII (63)!" will be held on June 1. It's our 63rd Oldies with Steve Kikuchi & High Resolution providing favorite hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Please note the **new hours**. The dance will begin at **7:00 pm** and end at **11:00 pm** with lots of dancing and fun in between. The earlier hours, although giving us less time to set up, will make it easier for the members who come to help clean-up after the dance.

Presale tickets are \$20 or \$25 at the door. For info and song requests, contact Joanie at (626) 300-8947, joaniek-martinez@gmail.com or Lillian at (626) 780-9866, lilnish77@gmail.com. Your Toban chairs will contact you about work shifts and assignments. Plan to come to the Center by 4:30 PM to help with the set-up and at 11:00 PM to help clean-up since we may not have help available to us. Donations are welcome for raffle prizes and drinks. Sign-up sheets for drinks will be at our Sunday service.

WCBT 23rd Annual Golf Classic

WCBT will be holding their 23rd Annual Golf Classic at a **new date, time**

& location. It will be on **Monday, June 3rd**, the **Hacienda Country Club in La Habra Heights**. Registration begins at **8:00 am**, Putting Contest at 8:30-9:30 am and the tournament will begin at 10:00 am.

Entry forms and sponsorship forms have been mailed to Temple members. If you are able to help on the day of the golf tournament or have any questions, please call Roy Takemura at (909) 594-3600 (office) or (909) 973-2580.

For more information see the article on page 2.

Dads & Grads Family Service

A Father's Day & Graduation Family service will be held on June 16, at 10:00 am. All graduates will be honored so please contact Rev. Miyoshi (213) 219-6140 with the names of graduates in your family. Join us for this special event.

Bon Odori Practice

Bon Odori (dance) practice will begin in June, every Tuesday and Thursday, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. All you need to bring are your kachi-kachi (castanets) and tenugui (Japanese towel) or fabric of equivalent size. The fans will be provided. The dates again are June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. See you there!

OBON FESTIVAL!

Hard to believe but Obon 2019 is almost here! The date is Saturday, June 22 and preparations are in the works but there's still a lot to do to make this annual event a success.

Set-up will begin on Friday, June 21, at 1:00 pm. We'll need help setting up inside the gym, social hall and parking lot. We'll also need help in the kitchen with food preparation.

In the mean time, we are accepting donations for rice, chili and children's and regular raffle prizes. Raffle tickets will be sent out and don't forget to get your favorite dessert recipes out for our famous West Covina Dessert Booth.

Sign-up sheets will be passed around at Sunday Services or contact Bruce at bwhang@earthlink.net to see how you can help.

GATEWAY Staff

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West Covina Buddhist Temple Mission Statement:

In the spirit of universal brotherhood, West Covina Buddhist Temple provides the opportunity for all to listen to and share the Teachings of the Buddha in order that we may awaken to our true selves, living our lives fully and dynamically.

The Temple's mailing address is:

West Covina Buddhist Temple
P. O. Box 1616
West Covina, CA 91793
(626) 689-1040

Website: www.livingdharma.org

Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

Happy Birthday ♪



MAY

Dina Mayeda, Stacey Miyashiro, Teri Ezaki, Takashi Ena, Say Masai, Ted Hamachi, Kay Sakaue, Garrett Hamachi, Kaylin Kanemaru, Claudia Haraguchi, Sara Kawai, Chimako Matsukiyo, Susan Mita, Russell Hombo, Derek Nakawatase, Cheryl Teragawa, Celina Meites, Ryden Harrison Meites, Ruby Kagawa, Jakob Yoshio Jucksch, Richard Hiroshima, Blake Kimio Le, Judy Takemura, Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi, Rev. Bill Briones, Shinran Shonin



T H E G A T E W A Y

Hanamatsuri and Family Fund Day

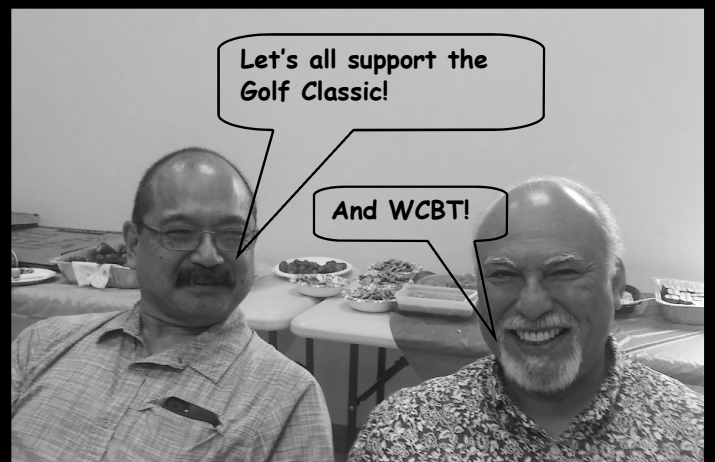




THE GATEWAY



WCBT Golf Classic "Comics"





T H E G A T E W A Y



West Covina Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

Tanjo-e Service

In celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin

Hatsumairi Ceremony

Held in conjunction with the Tanjo-e Service

Sunday, May 19, 2019 10:00 am

Dharma Message : Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi

親鸞聖人誕生会 新生児初参り法要

2019年5月19日(日) 午前10時

法話：見義信香開教使

A ceremony for infants and children up to 6 years of age who shall be presented initially before the Buddha. It signifies the foundation towards a spiritual life.

初参りは、新しいのちの誕生を祝う儀式です。6才までのお子さんを受け付け致します。お早めにお寺まで申し込んでください。

Child's Name:

Birthday:

Age:

M F

Parent's Name:

Address:

City:

State

Zip

Telephone:

E-mail:

1203 W. Puente Ave. West Covina, CA 91790

TEL: (626) 689-1040

E-Mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com

www.livingdharma.org

facebook.com/WestCovinaBuddhistTemple



T H E G A T E W A Y









WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE PRESENTS

LUV 'YA TO BE AT OLDIES LXIII (63)!

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019

***NEW TIME! 7pm to 11pm**

-  At the ESGV Japanese Community Center
-  Tickets: **\$20 presale**, \$25 at the door
-  Music by guest HIGH RESOLUTION
-  Drinks available, must be 21 or over
-  Dressy Casual
-  For tickets and/or information
Call or Text:

Joanie: **(626) 300-8947** (calls only)
Lillian: **(626) 780-9866**
or email: **lilnish77@gmail.com** or
joaniekmartinez@gmail.com



WCBT/ESGVJCC is located about a mile north of the West Covina Fashion Mall. Parking in rear of buildings.



**NO HEELS
for Ladies.**





T H E G A T E W A Y



WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE presents

Obon

FESTIVAL 2019

BON ODORI DANCING

public invited to participate

**MARTIAL ARTS
DEMONSTRATIONS**

**CULTURAL EXHIBITS
AND ENTERTAINMENT**

TAIKO DRUMMING

**DELICIOUS FOOD
GAMES • PRIZES**

**JUNE 22 SATURDAY
2 PM TO 9 PM**



**1203 W. Puente Ave, West Covina 91790
626.689.1040**

wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com • www.livingdharma.org
facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple



T H E G A T E W A Y

West Covina Buddhist Temple Announces Bon Odori Dance Practices

- **WHAT:** The Bon Odori dancing is the highlight of the Obon because, as a celebratory “group dance,” it symbolizes the world of oneness that is the goal of the Buddhist teaching. It's also just a lot of fun! The public is invited to learn the specific moves of each dance at the free and popular public dance instruction practices.
- **WHEN:** Every Tuesday and Thursday, 7-8:30 pm starting Tuesday, June 4. (June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 & 20)
- **WHERE:** the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center parking lot, 1203 West Puente Avenue, West Covina, 91790
- **THE OBON FESTIVAL:** Saturday, June 22, 2-9 pm



- **Contact Info:**
phone: 626 689-1040
website: www.livingdharma.org
e-mail: wcbt.livingdharma@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple



T H E G A T E W A Y



LISTENING, con't from pg. 1

fruition by answering the calling.

When we come to realize that the Teachings clearly illuminates the reality of ourselves, the Teachings become not our knowledge but our path to walk. And the fact that we have encountered the Teachings is manifested through our life. This is our response to the calling from the Teachings. Spontaneously uttering the Nenbutsu is one way. Therefore, Shinran Shonin profoundly appreciated saying the Name as the response of 'those who hear the calling from Amida Buddha even ten times or but once.'

There are numerous opportunities for us to listen to the Teachings. Listening to and reading Dharma messages are one way but are not the only way. We are able to learn from the life of someone who truly lives in the Teachings. Unexpected things occurring in our life could be the greatest teacher. The truth manifested through the Teachings can take any form to reach us, and through our life, they would reach many more people around us and those who yet to come. In Jodo Shinshu, listening to the Teachings is sharing what we listen throughout our life.

Buddhism Quiz

Today's Buddhism Quiz: Please indicate the following statements as True or False.

Difficulty Level: Easy... for sure!

1. ____ The Buddhist word for suffering is dukkha.
2. ____ The wheel with its axle out of kilter does not turn smoothly because its essence is off-center, is a metaphor for our lives.
3. ____ The cause of our suffering lies totally on the external forces that bombard our lives daily.
4. ____ The Buddha awakened to the Truth from his own experience of life.
5. ____ Buddhism makes no acknowledgement of gods, but it has a definitive view of creation and afterlife.

Answers: 1. T, 2. T, 3. F, 4. T, 5. F

Our deepest condolences to the family and relatives of...

*Mrs. Sachiko Kobayashi (87)
March 10, 2019*

Namu Amida Butsu

Quote of the Month
Whenever you find yourself
on the side of the majority,
it is time to reform
(or pause and reflect).
-Mark Twain



T H E G A T E W A Y

聞くということ 見義信香

浄土真宗において「聞く」ということがとても大切であるということは常日頃言われていることです。座禅など決まった形式の修行のない真宗では聞くということが行であるという言い方をされることもあります。そのことを不思議に思う人もいるかもしれません。日常生活において聞くということは特別な行為には思えないからです。それでは、浄土真宗において聞くということはどういうことなのでしょう。

仏法を聞くことを「聞法」あるいは「聴聞」と言います。これはただ漫然と音としての教えを耳で聞くということではないように思います。聞法とは、聞いたことが私の身体を通して表現される時にはじめて成就したと言えるのではないのでしょうか。

研修会や勉強会を通してもっと学びを深める、日曜礼拝に足を運ぶ、お盆まつりなどの行事を通してお寺の維持に尽力する、あるいは教えに出遇ったことで自分の生き方が変わる、など表現は人それぞれだと思います。そこに共通しているのは教えを聞いたという事実であります。そして、教えを聞いた人がその教えを表現する、その行為の総称を私たちは「念仏」という言葉でいただいていたのではないかと思います。

その意味で念仏とは、今はまだ手に入れていないものを仏様にお願ひして手に入れるための道具ではありません。すでにいただいているものの有り難さに目覚めた人の驚きと感動の表現なのです。それは呼びかけられている声に対す

る応答ともいえるでしょう。

私たちが誰かからの呼びかけに応える時、そこには次のような条件が成立しなければなりません。第一にその呼びかける声が聞こえている。第二にそれが自分に向けてられている声だと分かる。そして第三に聞こえたということを相手に伝えたいと思う、ということです。つまり私たちの聞くという行為は、聞こえているという事実を表現することによって成就するのです。

同じように、教えに出遇った人が、その教えが疑いなく自分に向けてられ、自分自身を明らかにしてくれるものであると深く領いた時、その領きが念仏という形で表現されるのです。そして、大きな感動を経験する時思わず声が出るように、念仏を称えるという行為はその人の思いを超えて起こるものなのでしょう。だからこそ親鸞聖人は名号を称すとは「とこえ、ひとこえ、きくひと」の表現であるといいただかれたのではないのでしょうか。

教えを聞くとは言葉を通して耳から入ってくるばかりとは限りません。仏法に生きる人と出遇い、その姿から多くの教えを学ぶこともあります。あるいは思いがけない経験によって、仏法が照らし出す自らの姿と社会のあり方に目が開かれることもあります。そのような出遇いや経験が私を動かすはたらきとなる時、教えが人や経験という縁を通してここに到り届いていることを実感するのです。聞こえてきた教えを自分の生活を通して表現していく、それが聞く人、念仏者の歩みとしていただかれてきたのではないかと思います。



お寺ニュース

母の日家族礼拝

5月12日（日）午前10時より、母の日家族礼拝をお勤めいたします。例年のように、メンバーの方による母の日のメッセージがございます。皆さまのご参詣をお待ちしております。

親鸞聖人誕生会 並びに新生児初参り法要

来る5月19日（日）午前10時より親鸞聖人誕生会並びに新生児初参り法要を勤修いたします。親鸞聖人の誕生をお祝いし、合わせて新生児の初参り法要をお勤めいたします。皆様のご家族、お知り合いの方に0歳から6歳までのお子様がいらっしゃいましたら、どうぞお申し込み下さい。初参り参詣をご希望の方は、見義信香開教使までお知らせ下さい。

盆踊り練習

本年度の当寺院のお盆祭り（6月22日）もいよいよ近づいて参りました。今年の盆踊り練習は以下の予定にて行われます。練習日は火曜日と木曜日、時間は午後7時から8時半までを予定しております。どうぞお誘い合わせの上、お気軽にご参加下さい。

練習日

6月	4日（火）
	6日（木）
	11日（火）
	13日（木）
	18日（火）
	20日（木）

East San Gabriel Valley
Japanese Community Center, Inc.

West Covina Buddhist Temple
1203 W. Puente Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790
P.O. Box 1616, West Covina, CA 91793

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DATED MATERIAL

THE WEST COVINA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GATEWAY

May 2019 - - Vol. LIV No. 5

May

- 2 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 5 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 12 10:00 am Mother's Day Family Service
- 14 10:00 am Study Class
- 19 10:00 am Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service
- 26 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 28 10:00 am Study Class

June

- 1 7:00 pm Oldies Dance
- 2 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 3 10:00 am WCBT Golf Tournament
- 4 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 6 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice
- 6 7:30 pm Howakai Japanese Service
- 9 8:30 am Board Meeting
- 9 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 11 10:00 am Study Class
- 11 7:00 pm Bon Odori Practice

2019年5月行事予定

- 2日 午後7時半 法話会
- 5日 午前8時半 理事会
- 5日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 12日 午前10時 母の日家族礼拝
- 19日 午前10時 誕生会／初参り法要
- 26日 午前10時 日曜礼拝

6月行事予定

- 1日 午後7時 オールディーズダンス
- 2日 午前10時 祥月法要
- 3日 午前10時 ゴルフトーナメント
- 4日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 6日 午後7時 盆踊り練習会
- 6日 午後7時半 法話会
- 9日 午前10時 理事会

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生死は我等の自由に
指定し得るものにあらざるなり
清沢満之